

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PARIS 28417 01 OF 02 022002Z

46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

ACDA-19 OMB-01 DODE-00 H-03 NSC-10 SS-20 IO-14 EB-11

COME-00 INT-08 AF-10 SCEM-02 /164 W

----- 017905

R 021842Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4533

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 PARIS 28417

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH PRESS REACTION TO POMPIDOU EC PROPOSAL

1. SUMMARY: IN MOODS RANGING FROM FAINT HOPE TO FIRM APPROVAL, PARIS PRESS -- COMMUNIST L'HUMANITE EXCEPTED -- HAS SUPPORTED POMPIDOU CALL FOR REGULAR EUROPEAN COMMUNITY SUMMIT MEETINGS. THOUGH SOME OBSERVERS THINK FRENCH INITIATIVE COMES TOO LATE FOR EUROPE TO HAVE ANY ROLE IN, OR EFFECT ON, RESOLUTION OF MIDDLE EAST CRISIS, MOST THINK TIME IS LONG OVER DUE FOR REGULAR, EVEN INSTITUTIONALIZED, COMMUNITY POLITICAL CONSULTATION, AND THAT RECENT US-SOVIET ACTIONS CONCERNING MIDDLE EAST PROVE IT. OPINION EXPRESSED IN PRESS BY POLITICAL PARTY SPOKESMEN

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PARIS 28417 01 OF 02 022002Z

ALSO SUPPORTS POMPIDOU MOVE IN PRINCIPLE. END SUMMARY.

2. "NO ONE CAN REPROACH THE PRESIDENT FOR HIS INITIATIVE," SAID ROLAND FAURE IN RIGHTIST AURORE NOVEMBER 1, "BUT DOESN'T IT COME TOO LATE? AFTER HAVING LONG NEGLECTED THE CHANCES FOR EUROPEAN UNIFICATION, PARIS OBSERVES REGRETFULLY THAT THE ISRAELI-ARAB PROBLEM IS BEING SETTLED IN A SOVIET-AMERICAN TETE-A-TETE" BUT PAPER ADDED THE HOPE THAT NINE WILL FINALLY BE IMAGINATIVE AND BOLD ENOUGH TO BUILD EUROPE, "TRAGICALLY ABSENT FROM THE GREAT NEGOTIATIONS ON WHICH ITS PROSPERITY, ITS INDEPENDENCE AND ITS VERY LIFE DEPEND."

3. FOR LEFTIST OPPOSITION COMBAT, THE MIDDLE EAST WAR HAS PROVIDED "IRREFUTABLE PROOF" OF REAL BALANCE OF FORCES IN THE WORLD -- THE "EXTENT OF AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC POWER AND, TO SLIGHTLY LESSER DEGREE, THAT OF MOSCOW; THE PASSIVITY OF EUROPE; THE ADVANTAGES AND DANGERS OF DETENTE." POMPIDOU, IT SAID, HAS LONG BEEN DISTURBED AT IMPLICATIONS OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RAPPROCHEMENT AND AT AMERICAN "AFTERTHOUGHTS" IN MILITARY, TRADE AND MONETARY RELATIONS WITH EUROPE. IT DESCRIBED "COMMON DEFENSE" AS A DECOY BY WHICH US USES NATO IN CONDUCT OF ITS MIDDLE EAST POLICY, KNOWING FULL WELL THAT OIL-DEPENDENT EUROPEANS DO NOT APPROVE. PAPER ASKED: "DOESN'T GERMANY REALIZE TODAY THAT THE AMERICAN 'UMBRELLA' SHELTERS AMERICAN INTERESTS FIRST, GERMAN INTERESTS SECOND?" THUS, COMBAT SAID, THE OCCASION IS EXCELLENT FOR RELAUNCHING EUROPE, THOUGH IT COMES TOO LATE FOR MIDDLE EAST. "EUROPEANS KNOW," EDITORIAL CONCLUDED, "THAT DESPITE ALL THE WESTERN ALLIANCES AND AFFINITIES, THEY ARE ALONE AT THE MOMENT OF CRISIS."

4. LE MONDE NOVEMBER 2 TOOK SOMEWHAT SIMILAR LINE. MIDDLE EAST WAR, ITS EDITORIAL SAID, THREW LIGHT ON EUROPEAN WEAKNESS "WITH A SHARPNESS NOT EVEN THE MOST PESSIMISTIC DARED TO IMAGINE." ALMOST ENTIRELY DEPENDENT ON MIDDLE EAST AS ENERGY SOURCE, EDITORIAL SAID, EUROPE WAS DEPRIVED OF ALL MEANS OF ACTION IN THIS VITAL DOMAIN. LE MONDE HAD FEW ILLUSIONS, HOWEVER, THAT INITIATIVES SUCH AS POMPIDOU'S COULD EASILY REMEDY THIS SITUATION. EVEN IF "POLITICAL EUROPE" HAD EXISTED, IT DECLARED, ITS ROLE WOULD HAVE REMAINED SECONDARY, IN THE WAR AND IN THE DIPLOMATIC SITUATION ACCOMPANYING IT; CLEARER THAN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PARIS 28417 01 OF 02 022002Z

EVER, THE "MASTERS" HERE WERE THOSE WHO SUPPLIED THE ARMS. NONETHELESS, POMPIDOU'S PROPOSAL IS "SALUTARY" -- IT COMES TOO LATE TO CHANGE CONDITIONS IN THE CURRENT CRISIS, SAID LE MONDE, BUT IT COULD HELP BETTER TO PREPARE EUROPE FOR "OTHER CHALLENGES IT WILL HAVE TO FACE." LE MONDE'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT REPORTED THAT POMPIDOU'S PROPOSAL "AWAKENED NO ECHO HERE. IN THE PRESENT CLIMATE, NOTHING BETTER THAN POLITE INDIFFERENCE WAS TO BE EXPECTED FROM OFFICIALS PREOCCUPIED

WITH MORE PRESSING BUSINESS." .../...IRWIN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PARIS 28417 02 OF 02 022004Z

73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

ACDA-19 DODE-00 H-03 NSC-10 SS-20 IO-14 EB-11 COME-00

INT-08 AF-10 SCEM-02 DRC-01 /164 W

----- 017928

R 021842Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4534

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 PARIS 28417

5. IN MODERATE FIGARO, ROGER MASSIP ALSO STRESSED THE
"ABSENCE OF EUROPE AS SUCH FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE AT A
TIME WHEN IT IS DOMINATED BY THE US-SOVIET TETE-A-TETE."
POMPIDOU PROPOSAL, HE SAID, VERY EXACTLY REFLECTS THE SITU-
ATION OF AN APATHETIC EUROPE FACED WITH THE POLICIES OF THE
SUPER-POWERS, WITH INFLATION, AND WITH AN OIL CRISIS. EVEN
THOUGH POMPIDOU PROPOSAL WILL HAVE SURE RESONANCE IN EUROPEAN
CIRCLES, SAID MASSIP, "IT IS DOUBTFUL IF IT WILL SUFFICE TO
REASSURE THE FRENCH, WHO ARE PREOCCUPIED WITH HOW THE POLI-
TICAL SITUATION IS DEVELOPING, AND WHO SOMETIME HAVE THE
FEELING THEY ARE NOT BEING GOVERNED WITH A FIRM ENOUGH HAND."
"BUT WITH THIS RESERVATION," MASSIP WROTE, ONE CAN ONLY HOPE

THAT EUROPE WILL TAKE ITSELF IN HAND, AND RESTORE TO ITSELF
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PARIS 28417 02 OF 02 022004Z

THE TRADITIONAL ROLE-- WHICH IS "ESCAPING IT IN SO MANY
DOMAINS" -- OF A CIVILIZATION THAT INTENDS TO PRESERVE ITS
ORIGINATLITY AND IDENTITY.

6. LES ECHOS EDITORIAL SAID "NOTHIN REMAINS, IN THE MIDDLE
TERM, OF THE BROTHERHOOD IN ARMS BORN OF SECOND WORLD WAR. IN
THE SHORT TERM, THE ENERGY CRISIS IS APT TO PIT AMERICAN
AGAINST EUROPEAN INTERESTS IN MERCILESS FASHION. AN AMERICA
HOSTILE TO EUROPE IS NO LONGER AN ABERRANT THOUGHT. FOR THE
ELYSEE, THE DEFINITION OF A FRANK AND UNITED EUROPEAN ATTITUDE
TOWARD THE US REMAINS THE BEST GUARANTEE OF AN IMPROVEMENT OF
RELATIONS..."

7. REPORTING "GENERALLY FAVORABLE" REACTIONS IN OTHER EURO-
PEAN CAPITALS, SERGE MAFFERT IN PRO-GOVERNMENT FRANCE-SOIR
ASSERTED THAT POMPIDOU UNDERSTOOD THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF ECON-
OMIC AND MONETARY COOPERATION IN EUROPE WITHOUT POLITICAL
COOPERATION. HIS GOALS, SAID MAFFERT, WERE TO CORRECT A
SITUATION IN WHICH, FOR EXAMPLE, EUROPE WAS ABSENT FROM
MIDDLE EAST DIPLOMACY; AND TO ESTABLISH IN "CONCRETE FORM"
AN INSTITUTIONALIZED CONCERTATION AMONG NINE. "MR POMPIDOU
IS SUGGESTING THAT A SORT OF CONFEDERAL GOVERNMENT, AT LEAST
THE BEGINNINGS OF ONE, BE SET UP," WROTE MAFFERT. SUCH A
"GOVERNMENT" WOULD TREAT ALL PROBLEMS FACING COMMUNITY MEMBERS --
INFLATION, ENERGY NEEDS, ETC., HE SAID. (LE MONDE EDITORIAL
ALSO DISCUSSED SOME FORM OF INSTITUTIONAL POLITICAL CONSUL-
TATION. TRUE CENTER OF DECISION OF A COMMUNITY OF NATIONS,
WROTE THIS PAPER, "CAN ONLY BE A DIRECTORATE LIMITED TO THE
MOST RESPONSIBLE." TAKING IDEA FURTHER, LE MONDE ASKED:"WHY
NOT IMAGINE, ONCE THESE 'REGULAR SUMMITS' ARE ESTABLISHED AND
OPERATING, THAT THE NINE CHIEFS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT COULD
NOT DESIGNATE ONE OF THEIR NUMBER, IN TURN, TO REPRESENT THEM
BETWEEN THEIR MEETINGS, GIVING HIM THEIR POWERS FOR LIMITED
TASKS?")

8. IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL ENTITLED "AN INDISPENSABLE
INITIATIVE," UDR (GAULLIST) ORGAN LA NATION PRAISED POMPIDOU
PROPOSAL AS WORTHY OF DE GAULLE -- A "HAPPY AND VERY NECESSARY
PROPOSAL." ONCE AGAIN, SAID LA NATION, "FRANCE IS DOING WHAT
IS NECESSARY REACTING ALONE IN A PRECISE WAY TO THE EVENT,
MAKING KNOWN THAT THIS CANNOT ENDURE..." HOW CAN ANY
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PARIS 28417 02 OF 02 022004Z

EUROPEAN UNION BE CONCEIVABLE, PAPER ASKED, WITHOUT A EUROPEAN POLICY?

9. POLITICAL PARTY SPOKESMEN WHOSE COMMENTS HAVE APPEARED IN PRESS HAVE SUPPORTED POMPIDOU INITIATIVE, SOMETIMES WITH QUALIFICATIONS. LECANUET (OPPOSITION CENTRE DEMOCRAT) IS A GOOD THING, WHICH GOES IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, BUT ALSO THE SIGN OF FAILURE OF 15 YEARS OF FIFTH REPUBLIC FOREIGN POLICY." PERONNET (OPPOSITION REFORMERS): "AN EVENT OF THE FIRST IMPORTANCE, A GREAT HOPE." BARROT (CDP, PART OF MAJORITY COALITION): "THE CDP CAN ONLY SUBSCRIBE TO THIS DECLARATION." D'ORNANO (INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN, PART OF MAJORITY COALITION): "VERY IMPORTANT. INDEPENDENT REPUBLICANS APPROVE AND WILL SUPPORT THE INITIATIVE..." COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER L'HUMANITE SAID POMPIDOU IS ATTEMPTING TO HELP BUILD A "LITTLE POLITICAL EUROPE FULL OF DANGER FOR THE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE OF OUR COUNTRY."

10. FIGARO REPORTED NOVEMBER 2 THAT "AUTHORIZED FRENCH SOURCE" HAD EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT FIRST REACTIONS TO POMPIDOU PROPOSAL FROM OTHER MEMBERS OF EC NINE. IRWIN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAR, PRESS COMMENTS, CHIEF OF STATE, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PARIS28417
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731158/aaaabqtb.tel
Line Count: 244
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Aug-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH PRESS REACTION TO POMPIDOU EC PROPOSAL
TAGS: PFOR, FR, XF, EEC, (POMPIDOU, GEORGE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005